

## **The Greenbelt Astronomy Club and Amateur Astronomy**

The Greenbelt Astronomy Club is open to anyone who is interested in an increased appreciation of the night sky, the science of astronomy, the study of the stars, planets and galaxies of our universe. You do not need to own a telescope to join. You do not need any special skills or knowledge; just an interest in joining with others to share a common interest in sky gazing.

## **Our Telescope Project**

The club is currently rebuilding a 17.5" Dobsonian. Mirror re-figuring has been completed and truss design is underway. Mirror re-coating is completed.

## **Fighting Light Pollution**

The Greenbelt Astronomy Club is actively working to reduce light pollution. The club is a member of the International Dark Sky Association and seeks to educate people about ways to reduce this problem.

## **How to Join the Club**

It's as simple as attending meetings and paying dues (\$15 per year for individuals or families). The Greenbelt Astronomy Club meets the last Thursday of each month (except Holidays) at 7:30 p.m. Meetings usually take place at the Howard B. Owens Science Center (see directions on the back of this brochure).

### **Equipment**

The club maintains a stock of observing equipment for member use. Loan of equipment is decided on a case by case basis. The club reserves the right to refuse loan to any individual.

## **Regular Meeting Dates for 2002**

January 31, February 28, March 21, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 22, October 24 & November 21

### **For More Information:**

**Email to:**  
**[greenbeltastroclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbeltastroclub@yahoo.com)**

**Visit Our Web Site:**  
**<http://heawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/>**

## **Greenbelt City Observatory Project**

The club is committed to building and operating an observatory as an educational resource for the city of Greenbelt and the surrounding communities. A structure has been donated by Montgomery College and currently resides in the Public Works Yard. The club and city are working in partnership to found an observing park at Northway Fields. Funds need to be raised. Can you help?

## **A Non-Profit Educational Organization**

As of May 2000, the Greenbelt Astronomy Club, Inc. was determined to be a tax exempt educational organization as defined by Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. As such all donations to the club are tax deductible to the extent that they are free gifts, with no consideration or quid pro quo to the giver. The club is registered with the Maryland Secretary of State to conduct fund raising activities and is exempt from Maryland State Sales Tax.

## Directions to Howard B. Owens Science Center

(monthly meeting site)

**From 495/95** (AKA The Beltway)

Take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway **North**. Then take exit **193 East** (Greenbelt Road) and proceed approximately 2.5 miles to Owens Science Center on the right.

(Note: you will pass Goddard Space Flight Center on your left; the next light is Soil Conservation Road; Owens is the 3rd right past Soil Conservation Road.)



### Greenbelt Astronomy Club Officers

**President- Bill McHale**

Email: [wmchal1@umbc.edu](mailto:wmchal1@umbc.edu)

**Vice President- Tom Teutsch**

**Treasurer and Observatory Chair- Doug Love**

Email: [dlove@greenbelt.com](mailto:dlove@greenbelt.com)

**Secretary-Valerie O'Brien**

Email: [greenbeltastroclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greenbeltastroclub@yahoo.com)

**Address Correspondence to:**

**Greenbelt Astronomy Club**

**P.O. Box 727**

**Greenbelt, Md. 20768**

## Star Parties

Star Parties and the Weather - Since star parties are dedicated to observing the night sky, they will only be held if the sky is clear enough to permit observing. Star parties will not be held if skies are overcast or mostly cloudy. Two observing sessions per month are scheduled for Northway Field. One will be advertised to the public, one will not. The public is welcome to attend both. Bring a telescope or binoculars if you have them. Use ours if you don't. Please filter your flashlight, filters provided.

## Star Party Dates 2002

**All star parties are on Saturday, beginning at dusk.**

**Jan 19, Feb 9 & 16,  
Mar 9 & 16, April 6 & 13,  
May 4 & 11, June 8 & 15,  
July 6 & 13, Aug 10 & 31, Sept.  
10 & 28, Oct 5 & 12,  
Nov 2, 9 & 30, Dec 7 & 28**

### Directions to star party site

**From Greenbelt Rd. (Rt. 193)** take Southway to Ridge Rd. Turn right on Ridge Rd. and go approximately 3/4 mile to Northway Rd. Turn right on Northway, Extended. Follow the dirt road, bear left at the fork to the observing site at the Wolfe Ballfields. As you ascend the slight grade to the observing site please use caution if it is after dark. Low light conditions exist at the site.



Member Astronomical League



Member International Darkskies Association

**Founded December 30 1992**

**A Non-Profit Educational Corporation**

**Now in Our 10th Year of  
People Helping People in their  
Personal Exploration of Our  
Universe.**

**Amateur Astronomy**